

7-1947

## West Virginia Libraries 1947 Vol.1 No.2

Madalyn M. Bradford

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### Recommended Citation

Bradford, Madalyn M., "West Virginia Libraries 1947 Vol.1 No.2" (1947). *West Virginia Libraries Newsletter*. Paper 2.  
<http://mds.marshall.edu/wvlib/2>

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# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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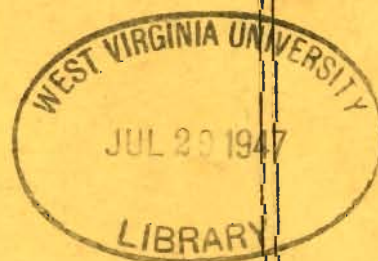
J U L Y

1947

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Volume I

Number 2





# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume I  
Number 2

July  
1947

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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## Association Officers 1946 -- 1947

President: MADALYN M. BRADFORD,  
Huntington Public Library,  
Huntington  
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James E. Morrow Library, Mar-  
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Davis & Elkins College Library,  
Elkins  
Federal Relations Chairman: FLEM-  
ING BENNETT, West Virginia Uni-  
versity Library, Morgantown

\*\*\*\*\*

## EDITORIAL

A REPORT ON the state of the nation's libraries which appeared on the front page of the New York Times for June 1st was certainly no shock to the members of the library profession. But it is to be hoped that it will somehow shock John Q. Public out of his lethargy, for the blame lies squarely on his shoulders.

BUT LIBRARIANS cannot entirely shrug off the responsibility for such a sad state of affairs. They too have been negligent. Theirs is not a job of sitting back and waiting for someone else to move, but rather theirs is the job of arousing the community, for who better than the librarian should know what is needed? Maybe John Q. Public is so deep in the hole that he doesn't even know that somewhere above him there is still a spot of sunshine.

IN EVERY state libraries are definitely on the upgrade, and now is the time to see that yours is too. If only one person in each community wants better library service and will work for it, it can be achieved. Results are assured, however, if that person is a wide-awake librarian who knows what is needed and goes after it.

TEN YEARS ago West Virginia ranked at the bottom of all the forty-eight states in libraries. Today we are third from the bottom! We're on our way out of the hole toward the sunshine. How did we climb this far? Just because a few people know the sunlight existed and wanted their share of it, and as they struggled, others joined until there are more people in West Virginia today who want good library service than ever before.

YOU MAY live in the little town of Crossroad Center, but Crossroad Center can be library-conscious. And if all the Crossroad Centers across the state can be made to see that spot of sunshine, then the next ten years will definitely find West Virginia on the library map.

## NEW ASSOCIATION OFFICERS NAMED

SEVERAL CHANGES and additions have been made in the "official family" of the Association. Resignations of two librarians to continue their professional endeavors in other states have made necessary the new appointments.

ROBERT H. SIMONDS, of the Kanawha County Public Library, has accepted the office of secretary, filling the vacancy created.  
(Turn to OFFICERS, page 4)



A LETTER TO ALL OF US FROM THE  
A.L.A. CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

In response to the editor's ardent request, Miss Eleanor Hamilton, librarian of the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling, has taken time out from a well-earned vacation to write this stimulating account of the A.L.A. Conference, at which she and Betty Weeks (another Wheeling librarian) and Betty Lawrence of Morgantown, were West Virginia's only representatives.

THE 66TH ANNUAL conference of the American Library Association convened in San Francisco on June 29, with 2634 librarians registered. Something of the significance of the meeting place injected itself into the purposefulness of the group, and as we sat listening to discourses on atomic energy, world friendship, and the interdependence of nations in this shrinking world,

COMMITTEE PROMISES PEPPY PROGRAM

FOR OCTOBER MEETING IN CHARLESTON

A PEPPY and interesting program for the fall meeting of the West Virginia Library Association is promised by the program committee, which has been hard at work under the chairmanship of Robert H. Simonds, of the Kanawha County Public Library. Other members of the committee are Miss Carrie Brittain, of Davis & Elkins College, and Miss Dora Ruth Parks, executive secretary of the Library Commission.

THE ANNUAL meeting of the association will be held in Charleston on Saturday, October 25th. The morning session will begin promptly at 9:30, and will consist of general business, election of officers, and reports. Luncheon groups will meet from 12:30 until 2:00 p.m.

THE AFTERNOON session will begin at 2:30 and end at 4 o'clock. The first part of the afternoon session will be used to complete business and reports of groups. A well-known librarian will be secured as speaker for this session.

BOTH THE Library Commission and the Friends of the Library will hold meetings in Charleston on the same day, and all three groups will meet together for a dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Daniel Boone hotel. Featured on the  
(Turn to COMMITTEE, page 5)

dence of nations in this shrinking world, the flags of the United Nations, waving from the very platform where that hopeful organization saw its beginning in 1945, lent an urgency and an emphasis to our conference theme, A Moratorium on Trivia.

GENERAL SESSIONS

MISS MARY U. ROTHROCK presided over the four general sessions with assurance and authority. In developing the conference theme there was repeatedly pointed out the important role the library has in forming intelligent public opinion and how that public opinion must be directed towards the preservation of peace. Librarians from France and Brazil brought similar messages from their peoples.

DR. JOEL HILDEBRAND, professor of chemistry at the University of California, spoke on how not to control atomic energy by pointing out some of the blind alleys down which we might so easily be led. Such ideas as the possibility of keeping the manufacture of atom bombs a secret; attempting to crush Russia; asserting that atomic energy is an over-rated danger----all were dispelled by this learned scientist one by one. We must stop asking can we control the situation; we must control it----and to do it will require all the intelligence and ingenuity of the combined nations of the world. But it is up to us to take the initiative in its control as we have in  
(Turn to LETTER, page 3)



## L E T T E R

(Continued from page 2)

its production and use.

DR. CLARENCE A. DYKSTRA, provost of the University of California at Los Angeles, in his address, Independence and Interdependence, drew a parallel between the development of our nation from thirteen individual independent colonies to 48 interdependent states, and the path he thinks we must follow in world government. It was a long tedious task, he said, but we did it; and so must the sovereign nations build their future if there is to be one.

### A.L.A. COUNCIL

THERE WERE two meetings of the A.L.A. Council during which routine business of the organization was handled with spirited participation by the members. Discussion was free and the procedure democratic in spite of the unwieldy size of the gathering. Committee reports on A.L.A. international relations, a national plan for public library service in which that service would be strengthened by coordination and regional planning, national relations, salaries (they should be higher!), tenure, and constitutional changes gave one the feeling of being in touch with an organization with a planned purpose.

### DIVISIONAL MEETINGS

DIVISIONAL meetings concerning every possible type of library problem afforded excellent opportunity for getting help, or at least consoling oneself that others had similar difficulties. The pre-conference library extension institute met in six sessions June 26 and 27, where the ever-present query of "how shall we reach readers?" was answered by librarians who are doing that very thing most successfully through the use of community branches, regional service, bookmobiles. Some of the plans operating on \$1.50 and \$2.00 per capita gave very little solace to two librarians

from West Virginia where we, with apologies to Macy's, try to make 37¢ act like a buck. However, the stories from Missouri and Arkansas and Mississippi told of struggle such as West Virginia is enduring. The very fact that there is struggle seems encouraging. At least, there is less passive resistance in the library field than formerly.

ONE VERY HELPFUL discussion centered around the bookmobile of yesterday, today and tomorrow. Parked at the curb were two of the handsomest new bookmobiles in California-----one with plexiglass skylights letting in the justly-praised California sunshine. Attempts to bring down the cost from today's almost prohibitive \$7500 by more or less uniform action are being made in several sections of the country. One man spoke of converting an excess-property Army ambulance into a rather satisfactory bookmobile for \$1,000.

FROM THE POINT of view of pure delight the meeting at which the Newbery and Caldecott awards were made surpassed all others. Carolyn Sherwin Bailey, who received the Newbery medal for Miss Hickory, was a lovely, soft-spoken, elderly lady who wove into her acceptance speech our obligation to this troubled world to preserve the rhapsodies of childhood. Leonard Weisgard, whose illustrations for The Little Island won for him the coveted Caldecott award, delighted the large audience with his reminiscences of a childhood not, in his case, far distant. Although he says that he expresses himself through line and color rather than words, he speaks as a poet. The runner-up for this award, Raindrops Splash, is also Mr. Weisgard's work.

### PERSONALITIES

MARY U. ROTHROCK - brusque, efficient, witty-----in control of the situation, and enjoying it.  
PAUL NORTH RICE - newly elected president, pleasant, self-confident, feeling his responsibility.

(Turn to LETTER, page 7)



ANOTHER MILESTONE PASSED, BUT THE

BIG ONE IS STILL AHEAD FOR S.48

THE LIBRARY Demonstration Bill has passed another milestone on its way to becoming law. The Sub-Committee on Education of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, before whom hearings on S.48 were held on May 16, have now reported the bill to the full committee without opposition.

NINE OF THE thirteen members of the full committee have indicated their support, and if rapid action is taken, there is still a chance that the bill will be passed by the Senate before adjournment on July 26th. If not, according to Paul Howard, "it should pass early next session." Indications are that between 55 and 60 favorable Senate votes can be counted on.

IN THE HOUSE Committee, which has had its hands full with deliberations on the Federal Aid to Education proposals, hearings on the Library Demonstration Bill will probably not be held until late next January or early in February.

IN THE LATEST issue of "Federal Relations News," Paul Howard points out that "the Library Demonstration Bill has made greater progress than any other measure of social legislation before this Congress..... Out of three hearings [two in the 79th Congress and one in the 80th] only two negative votes have been cast. With proper work during the fall, the bill can be passed next session and will be passed if librarians and friends of libraries work diligently on [the plan given below]"

THE GENERAL PLAN for action agreed upon by the Federal Relations Committee and the State Committees at the San Francisco meeting is as follows:

1. To urge members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare to complete action on S.48 as soon as possible.

2. To see EACH MEMBER of Congress when he returns home after adjournment on July 26th and present S.48-H.R. 2465 to him and gain his support. (It was decided that the kind of work needed this fall is through personal contact rather than through publicity.)

3. The publicity campaign to be intensified with the convening of the second session of the 80th Congress. Preparations will be made during the fall and early winter months.

LIBRARIANS AND FRIENDS of libraries in West Virginia have their job cut out for them. Your coordinator and the other officers of the Association urge that

(Turn to MILESTONE, page 9)

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O F F I C E R S

(Continued from page 1)

ated by the resignation of Charles E. Butler, who left the Charleston library in June to accept a position as assistant librarian in the Buffalo (N.Y.) Public Library.

KATHARINE C. DWYRE, of the West Virginia University Library, has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the Membership committee for A.L.A., replacing Fleming Bennett, also of the University library staff, who will do graduate work at the University of Chicago beginning this autumn. Miss Dwyre will also head up the membership drive for the West Virginia Library Association.

AT THE March meeting of the Executive Committee in Morgantown, Miss Mary E. Wattles, of the University library, was appointed chairman of the Publicity Committee. At the same meeting a Constitution committee was appointed to revise the present constitution and by-laws of the Association. Chairman of this committee is Forrest F. Carhart, Jr., of the University library, and the other members are Miss Eleanor Hamilton, of Wheeling, and Miss Carrie Brittain, of Davis & Elkins College in Elkins.



# REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN BALTIMORE

PLANS ARE rapidly shaping up for the Middle Atlantic States Regional Library Conference, which will be held in Baltimore, Md., Thursday through Saturday, October 9-11, and which will be attended by librarians from New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

SINCE IT is designed as a substitute for the ALA Conference, which most eastern librarians were unable to attend, the general steering committee is planning a topnotch program with "Education of This Generation" for its challenging theme.

THERE WILL be three general sessions and a banquet, as well as special group discussions. High program-quality is assured by an \$1800 budget for speakers. Definitely on the conference program are such men as Ralph Munn, Emerson Greenaway, Rabbi David Wise, and Alexander Crosby.

ON SATURDAY, the various state associa-

tions will hold meetings. There will be a free period during which libraries in the Baltimore area will hold open house; opportunity will be given for visiting the fine collection of manuscripts and incunabula owned by Mrs. John W. Garrett.

EXHIBITS WILL be a prominent feature of the conference. It is reported that already \$1100 worth of exhibit space has been leased in the Lord Baltimore Hotel, where the main meetings are to be held.

A NUMBER of West Virginia librarians are serving on conference committees: Robert Simonds, program; Eleanor Hamilton, arrangements; Mary Wattles, publicity; Betty Meek, exhibits; Forrest Carhart, general planning committee.

WEST VIRGINIANS who are interested in going, and who would like to have hotel reservations made for them, are advised to write to Robert Simonds, Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston, for information and forms.

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## COMMITTEE (Continued from page 2)

program will be an address by a nationally known librarian.

NAMES OF speakers, and more details of meetings will be announced in the next issue of "West Virginia Libraries" which will be issued just before the fall meeting.

SECTIONAL luncheons and business meetings may be held by each of the three divisions of the Association at the Charleston meeting. Sectional chairmen and committee members include:

College Librarians: E. Hugh Bohmyer, Bethany College, chairman; Mrs. L. P. Drain, W. Va. State College; Miss Ora Peters, Concord State College; and Mrs. Vivian Boughter, West Liberty State College.

School Librarians: Miss Genevieve Gib-

son, East High School, Huntington, chairman; Miss Sarah White, Triadelphia High school, Wheeling; Miss Christine Childs, Stonewall Jackson High school, Charleston; and Miss Alice Griffin, Washington Irving High School, Clarksburg.

Public Librarians: Miss Ethel Green, chairman, Clarksburg Public Library; Mrs. Eleanor M. Peterson, Huntington Public library; Miss Virginia Ebeling, Ohio County Public library; Mrs. G. C. Hamilton, Greenbrier County Public library.

A SECTION for special librarians may be organized at the October meeting. Those who are interested are advised to get in touch with Miss Jean Moore, librarian at the W. Va. Geological Survey library in Morgantown.

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\* HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP \*  
\* DUES FOR A.L.A.? DON'T LET YOUR \*  
\* MEMBERSHIP LAPSE. SEND DUES NOW! \*  
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## LIBRARIES ON THE FRONT PAGE

HAVE YOU READ the article about libraries which appeared in the New York Times on Sunday, June 1st? It was on the front page. The article is based on a two-year nationwide survey of existing library conditions, conducted by the postwar planning committee of the American Library Association.

HERE ARE SOME startling facts from the report:

\*\*\*In more than 90 percent of the communities of this country, adequate library facilities are lacking. (We can do better than that in West Virginia; 100 percent of communities lack adequate library facilities.)

\*\*\*25,000,000 people in the United States have no library facilities.

\*\*\*Most public library administrative units are too small, and have too little income.

\*\*\*Personnel deficiencies are serious.  
\*\*\*Many buildings are outmoded and outgrown.

\*\*\*Library service is seriously below accepted standards in quantity and quality.

\*\*\*Two hundred ninety public libraries, serving 6,000,000 people, have annual incomes below \$25,000. (According to last year's figures only three libraries in West Virginia had incomes of more than \$25,000.)

\*\*\*Only three states--Massachusetts, Vermont and the District of Columbia--are providing service for 100 percent of their populations.

\*\*\*Thirty-nine percent of the librarians are without college or university degrees, and only three percent hold advanced professional degrees.

IF YOU HAVEN'T read the entire article, you'd better do so.

## WHAT IS REFERENCE SERVICE?

"WHO WERE the makers of the first false teeth?" or "How many men six feet tall are there in the United States?" are only two of the many, many questions which confront the reference librarian during a day's work.

THE REFERENCE librarian of any library must interpret the materials of the library for the patrons; that is, she must know what tools are in the library and what subject or subjects each covers, and then, she must know how to use the various tools and be able to aid the reader in using them.

THIS BRINGS up the question "What are reference materials?" One definition might be: Any books, pamphlets, or magazines to which one refers in answering questions or locating information on some subject, are reference materials. In other words, a reference tool is never read through, but merely referred to.

WE MIGHT group the materials as follows:

- General dictionaries
- General encyclopedias
- Encyclopedias and dictionaries on special subjects
- Bibliographies on all subjects
- Magazine indexes
- Pamphlets and picture files

THERE ARE various types of services which all libraries may be called upon to perform at some time, as given in Shore's Basic Reference Books:

1. Answer questions
  - a. about facts
  - b. about community, library, city
2. Locate material for speeches, papers, and hobbies
3. Compile bibliographies
  - a. annotate material
  - b. summarize literature in a given field

(Turn to REFERENCE, page 8)



# UNIVERSITY HAS

## NEW LIBRARIAN

ELMER M. GRIEDER has been appointed librarian at West Virginia University, to succeed W. P. Kellam, who resigned last August to become librarian at the University of South Carolina. During this eleven-months interim the affairs of the University Library have been administered by a committee of department chiefs, headed by Fleming Bennett.

THE NEW librarian, who assumed his new duties on July 1, has been a member of the Harvard University libraries staff since 1938. For six years he was in charge of the library of the graduate school of public administration at Harvard. Grieder organized this library, which is considered one of the finest in the field of public administration.

SINCE Mr. Grieder's return from the army in October, 1946, he has been general assistant to Keyes Metcalf, director of the Harvard libraries.

GRIEDER holds degrees from the University of Dubuque, Columbia University and Harvard. He received his B.S.L.S. from Columbia in 1936, and was awarded the M.L. degree at Harvard this past spring.

HE TAUGHT science at the La Porte (Iowa) City High school for five years, and after his graduation from Columbia, served as an assistant in the Detroit Public Library for two years.

MR. GRIEDER has contributed to a number of professional journals, and served on a Special Libraries Association committee which in 1939 published a revised edition of Public Administration Libraries: A Manual of Practice.

MR. GRIEDER served in the Army from 1943 to 1946, most of the time as an intelligence analyst in the general headquarters of the Southwest Pacific area.

## LETTER (Continued from page 3)

PAUL HOWARD - tall, thin head of the important national relations office in Washington.

FLORA B. LUDINGTON - learned, immersed in world problems, and recently returned from two years with the American Library in India.

CARL MILAM - jovial, at ease; carrying the whole convention with a relaxed good humor.

MILTON LORD - lending dignity, charm and a Harvard accent.

SUSAN GREY AKERS - a friendly little woman sought out by her admiring former students.

EVELYN PARKS - sister of our Miss Parks, greeting friends from all points of the compass where she has helped in the true Parks tradition of spreading library service.

## SO THIS IS SAN FRANCISCO!

NEVER HAS a conference had stiffer competition from its locale than this one, for San Francisco is truly a fascinating city. Chinatown, Nob Hill, the cable cars, Twin Peaks, the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, the International Settlement, Old Spanish missions--all have their charm for visitors, and no one must miss the Top of the Mark or Stanford University or a ride on the ferry across the Bay. It is to be wondered at that in the midst of such fascinating attractions, many hundreds of librarians attended the meetings and gave their time and thought to plans for getting the "right book to the right person at the right time!"

SEE YOU in Atlantic City in 1948!

--ELEANOR HAMILTON.

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" IF YOU DIDN'T GET TO A.L.A., WHY NOT "  
" PLAN TO GO TO THE REGIONAL LIBRARY "  
" CONFERENCE IN BALTIMORE THIS FALL? "  
" GET IN TOUCH WITH ROBERT SIMONDS IN "  
" CHARLESTON ABOUT HOTEL RESERVATIONS. "  
#####



# MUSIC SERVICE SUCCESSFUL IN ITS FIRST YEAR AT OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

ONE YEAR of maintaining a record library has taught the Music Department of the Ohio County Public Library many interesting things. In the first place, 2896 people played 6760 records. 4620 records were borrowed for playing at home, while 2140 were played in the library's listening room.

TWENTY-ONE different groups, including high school home room groups, the Wheeling Symphony Auxiliary, classes from the Y.M.C.A., and Girl Scouts made special arrangements for the use of the listening room. The music of Chopin, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky is requested as often as that of Gershwin, Cole Porter and Kern. The trend among young people seems to be towards the classics, leaving light opera for the older people.

MORE MEN than women visit the Music department. Boys and girls, for whom a music story-hour is conducted, enjoy the "talking" records, such as "Peter and the Wolf" or "Rapunzel," but are quite attentive to music as well---especially the "Blue Danube Waltz" and the "Overture to William Tell." Damage to Records has been kept at a minimum, and borrowers have been found willing to accept responsibility.

LAST YEAR the music collection of the library was augmented by the purchase of 2500 recordings. To accommodate them, rooms on the second floor were remodeled, painted light-blue and equipped with blond chairs. The soundproof listening room can seat 50 people, but by using the floor and window sills, we seated over 100 for the puppet show held during Book Week. Adjoining the listening room are the room containing the records, and the one where the catalog is kept, as well as the books about music and musicians, scores for piano, violin and wind instruments, anthems and band music. Miniature scores are available for those desiring to follow the score while lis-

tening to the recording of a particular selection.

THE MUSIC department invites all vacationing librarians to stop in to listen as well as to look.

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## THEY'RE DOING IT IN CLARKSBURG, TOO!

THE CLARKSBURG Public Library is in the process of starting a phonograph record library. The Junior Marcato Club, a group of young musicians, is back of the project. They read the article, "Music to Take Home," in last November's issue of Reader's Digest, and decided to help the library start a collection of records. They gave a concert in May to raise money for buying records and a player. Miss May Potter is planning a formal presentation in September. Other people learning of the venture have already contributed seven classical albums.

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## R E F E R E N C E

(Continued from page 6)

4. Instruct readers in use of catalog or use of reference books at time information is being located
5. Give recreational and cultural reading advice.

THE REFERENCE staff should always remember that giving good reference service means that no patron should ever leave the library without his question answered satisfactorily, or, when no material is available, without a suitable substitute.

--MARGARET S. BOBBITT

Reference Librarian, Marshall College

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"WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES" is being sent only to members of the Association. Those who have paid dues since the first issue was published may have copies by writing for them, as long as they last. Extra copies are available from the Huntington Public Library.



ONE SENATOR, THREE REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM WEST VA. FAVOR LIBRARY BILL

PRINTED below are excerpts from letters which were received by our federal relations coordinator, in response to his letters to West Virginia's congressmen.

MEMBERS of the association should appreciate the definite stands taken in favor of the Library Demonstration Bill by Senator Kilgore and Representatives Snyder, Hedrick and Rohrbaugh. It is hoped that before the bill comes up for a vote every member of Congress from West Virginia will be as much in favor of it as these four men are.

NO MAN, however, should be asked to pledge himself in favor of any piece of legislation unless he is convinced that it is in the interests of his constituents.

IF THE representative from your district isn't as strongly in favor of the bill as you think he should be, why not write him about it?

-- Editor.

\* \* \*

HERE IS WHAT OUR CONGRESSMEN SAY  
ABOUT THE LIBRARY DEMONSTRATION BILL

Senator HANLEY M. KILGORE: "I, too, am deeply interested in this measure, as I believe that it provides for a library service desperately needed in many sections. While I am not a member of the Committee before which it is now pending I can assure you that I shall do everything in my power to expedite favorable action on the bill."

Senator CHAPMAN REVERCOMB: "I am indeed glad to learn your views with respect to this proposed legislation, and although I am not a member of the Committee now studying this subject, you may be assured that I will give it my careful consideration when it is before the Senate."

Representative MELVIN C. SNYDER: "I am in favor of this legislation and will do

everything possible to secure its passage by the House of Representatives."

Representative ERLAND H. HEDRICK: "I appreciate receiving your views on this matter, and I am glad to advise you that I am in favor of this bill. When this matter is brought to the floor of the House, I shall do all I can to assure its passage."

Representative FRANCIS J. LOVE: "I am pleased to have your views on this proposed legislation and you may be assured that it shall have my careful attention."

Representative EDWARD G. ROHRBAUGH: "Like you, I am of the opinion that we West Virginians need to do something about the library situation in our home state. The fact that we rate forty-sixth among the forty-eight states is certainly something that we cannot be very proud of.... I assure you I shall be pleased to do anything I can to assist in remedying this situation."

Representative HUBERT S. ELLIS: "The Committee on Education and Labor ... informs me that no action has been taken and none is scheduled on this measure. From the information I have at the moment (May 1st), however, I am inclined to support this bill."

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M I L E S T O N E  
(Continued from page 4)

you make every effort to see our senators and representatives late this summer and during the fall months. Most of them are already favorable to passage of the bill, but it is extremely important that contacts with them be continually renewed---stopping, of course, just this side of "nuisance-dom."

WE MUST LET them know that there is no slackening of our interest and our concern. We must make certain that West Virginia's votes are cast in favor of the Library Demonstration Bill.

\* \* \*



## W H Y      S T A T I S T I C S ?

MANY TIMES during the thirteen years I've been struggling with library statistics I've wondered whether it was worth the effort. Juggling figures at the end of each month and, in a really big way at the July round-up for the entire year, the question of the value of statistics is bound to arise unless you are an automaton who performs the work assigned to you merely as routine and takes no personal interest whatever. But in spite of an occasional lack of enthusiasm, I am convinced that statistics do have a place and that the job of keeping them is no more futile than many another job can appear at off-moments.

AFTER TAKING over the job of coping with statistics, I did try to revamp them, eliminating some and adding others so that only the ones actually to be put to some later use were kept. These are of two kinds: CIRCULATION and ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY. Financial figures, etc. are in the hands of the administrative head. Both of the above are necessary in filling out A.L.A. forms and other official reports. For example, we were repeatedly being asked the number of duplicate copies in our collection. Our answer could be either a statement that no separate record was kept, or a rough estimate based on an attempt to count from the shelf-list cards. Now we list our added copies in separate columns and the total is soon reached. This in itself may seem futile on the part of A.L.A. or any other agency making the request, but, considering the argument over the advisability of keeping duplicates, such a request is reasonable in an effort to determine what other libraries are doing.

STATISTICS are also important as publicity either in college newspapers such as ours, or for the local papers in case of public libraries. Publicity does help in creating interest in the sad plight of libraries (an indisputable condition in West Virginia) and often results in

more appropriations.

FROM A more immediate angle, involving the book collection itself, circulation statistics can show the trend in the type of material being used which, in turn, can be used as a guide for future buying. Too often the purchase of books is made from recommended lists, not taking into consideration the specific interests of the particular library involved. While it is true that a reasonable balance of types of material should be maintained, still the reading interest of the particular public should come first. That too may be a debatable point, for there are those who contend that you should give people "what they ought to read--not necessarily what they want." However, the old adage, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink" still applies to the library collection, and it is a wise librarian who watches the trend of interest and selects her books accordingly, with an eye to a gradual development of reading interests.

IF YOUR circulation statistics show a low per-reader use of the library, it's time to take inventory of yourself as a librarian to see why. Not only may your collection be inadequate, but the atmosphere may not be inviting nor the service courteous.

SO, CHEER UP if you are the "keeper of the statistics" in your particular library. Indirectly your services on that score should bear fruit in "more books to more people," which should be the aim of all of us, whether in public, college or school libraries.

--BERNICE AMSTUTZ DORSEY  
Assistant Librarian, Marshall College

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\*  
\* MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND  
\* THE ASSOCIATION'S MEETING IN  
\* CHARLESTON, OCTOBER 25TH. GET  
\* YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION EARLY.  
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# "LIBRARY SAMPLER"

FOR FIVE months the Clarksburg Public Library has had a weekly program over radio station WBLK. It is called the "Library Sampler." Mrs. Henry Curme, the staff member who managed the series, has been very successful in getting capable local community leaders to give the weekly talks and readings from great books to stimulate listeners' interest in literature.

MR. FRED ZIMMERMAN, manager of WBLK, suggested that it would be worthwhile to invite two other libraries to join the Clarksburg library, and send the series out over a larger area. Broadcasting has been discontinued during July and August, but another series is planned to begin in September.

## BOOKMOBILES ARE ON THE MOVE FORWARD!

TWO LIBRARIES are to have new bookmobiles during the coming year, according to late reports. The Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston is purchasing a new one to replace the one they've been using since 1938. The Huntington bookmobile is expected to be delivered in September and to be placed in operation in November----probably during Book Week.

# COMMISSION OFFICIALS ATTEND ASSEMBLY OF LIBRARIANS OF THE AMERICAS

MRS. OLIVER SHURTLIFF, Chairman, and Miss Dora Ruth Parks, Executive secretary, of the West Virginia Library Commission attended the Assembly of Librarians of the Americas on Tuesday, June 3.

THE ASSEMBLY, which was held at the Library of Congress in Washington, began on May 12, and is the first real international conference of librarians to be held in this country. Delegates came from the Latin American republics, Canada, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the United States.

LIBRARY PROBLEMS were discussed at the Assembly in four languages. The session attended by Mrs. Shurtleff and Miss Parks featured a discussion of Adult Education and Library Extension problems.

## LIBRARY NOTES VOGUE IN FRENCH NOVELS

THE CLARKSBURG PUBLIC library has a small collection of French novels. They have been more frequently used recently, as several French war brides and a group of French and Belgian people have found the books and are enjoying them. Most of the novels were published in the '30's. The library has enough of them, they say, so that they could lend them to other libraries upon request.

## A.L.A. OBERLY MEMORIAL PRIZE

### AWARDED TO WEST VIRGINIAN

THE OBERLY Memorial Prize for 1947 was awarded by the American Library Association to Professor Burch H. Schneider of the College of Agriculture, West Virginia University, according to a recent announcement made by W. P. Kellam, former librarian at the University.

THE PRIZE-winning bibliography was prepared as a division of Prof. Schneider's book, "Feeds of the World: Their Digestibility and composition."